the port traffic in the country is likely to be 866 million tonnes by the year 2011-12. The report is still under discussion with various parties involved in the'ports.

(c) Keeping in view the anticipated growth of port traffic, port-wise plans are being prepared for expansion of capacity which would include construction of new berths, modernisation of ports by replacing the obsolete equipment by the state-of-the-art equipment and also acquiring new equipment, increasing productivity by changing the work culture and management. To create additional capacity, huge investment will be required and since it is not possible to fund these investment through the public sector alone, the Major Ports have been thrown open for private sector participation in identified areas, indicated in the guidelines on Private Sector Participation in the Ports and steps are afoot to corporatise major ports in a phased manner.

Financial Grant to Hindustan Shipyard

2100. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRASNPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Hindustan Shipyard are not getting salary for want of orders;

(b) if so, the action proposed to assist the company by releasing grant for making payment of wages; and

(c) the action proposed to procure orders to improve the financial crisis of the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The employees of Hindustan Shipyard Limited are getting salary regularly.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps initiated by Hindustan Shipyard Limited to procure orders and to improve the financial position include aggressive marketing, increase in shiprepair turn over, rationalisation of manpower, phasing out unproductive expenditure and to reduce overheads.